

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 06043 091520Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 PM-04 DODE-00 /026 W

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O R 091506Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9490

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 6043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ATRN, LE, SY

SUBJECT: MAIL RUN - NEED FOR SYRIAN ARMY DOCUMENTATION

REF: A. BEIRUT 7297, B. BEIRUT 7317

1. DATT CALLED PERSONALLY AT OFFICE OF RANKING OFFICER IN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE YESTERDAY TO REQUEST LAISSEZ-PASSEZ FOR EMBASSY DRIVERS. THE RESPONSE WAS FLAT NEGATIVE AND DATT SEES NO REASON FOR OPTIMISM THAT DECISION MAY BE REVERSED. MINDEF OFFICIAL DID, HOWEVER, PROMISE THAT GIVEN 24 HOURS NOTICE (LESS IN EMERGENCIES), SYRIAN GHQ WOULD INFORM REPEAT INFORM ITS FORCES IN LEBANON OF POUCH RUN. TO DO THIS, IT WOULD REQUIRE DATE AND TIMES OF PROPOSED TRIP, NAMES AND NATIONALITIES OF DRIVERS, AND DESCRIPTION AND LICENSE NUMBER OF VEHICLE TO BE USED.

2. IT WAS DEFENSE MINISTRY'S CONTENTION THAT ISSUANCE OF PERMITS ARE ENTIRELY IN HANDS OF, AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF, THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

3. BELIEVE MINDEF NOTICE TO SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON WORTHWHILE AND WILL REQUEST IF WE MAY ASSUME THAT, ROUTINELY, TRIPS TO DAMASCUS WILL BE EACH TUESDAY; RETURN WEDNESDAY; AND THAT JAMIL AND ADNAN WILL BE DRIVERS AND THAT 104/40 WILL BE USED. FOR ANY VARIATION, PLEASE GIVE US AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE.

4. DESPITE PREVIOUS INTERIOR MINISTRY ASSERTION THAT PERMITS
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NOT NECESSARY, IN LIGHT THIS INCIDENT, EMBASSY

NOW PREPARING LETTER TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR FROM CHARGE
REQUESTING MULTIPLE ENTRY PERMITS FOR MAUKASSA AND TANNIR.
WILL ADVISE RESULTS WHEN KNOWN. ON INITIAL TRIP, HOWEVER,
BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE GOOD IDEA FOR DRIVERS TO OBTAIN SYRIAN
PERMIT IN CHTOURA AS WELL.

5. FOR BAQUET FROM POWELL: 104/18 IN GARAGE FOR BODY WORK
AND PAINTING. SEABEE HARRIS ARRIVING SEPT. 14 TO CHECK
OUT VEHICLE MECHANICALLY. DO YOU WISH FOREGO MECHANICAL
WORK?
PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC06043
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760340-1252
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760978/aaaacpei.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 7297, 76 BEIRUT 7317
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAIL RUN - NEED FOR SYRIAN ARMY DOCUMENTATION
TAGS: ATRN, LE, SY
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006